

**West Virginia Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Research and Special Studies Section**

RFP Request for Information Response

for

RP-291: Evaluation of Deer-Vehicle Collision Rates in West Virginia and a Review of Available Mitigation Techniques

(Updated on: 4/13/12)

***NOTE:** This document serves as the final response to inquiries by researchers; no additional questions or comments will be addressed by the WVDOH or the WVDNR. The research team Principle Investigator that is selected to proceed with the research services contract negotiations will be given the opportunity to present any recommendations for modifying the project scope of work before the contract is finalized. The WVDOH is in no way obligated, however, to incorporate any suggested modifications into the scope of work.*

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED ON APRIL 5, 2012:

- 1) **Question:** (a) What is the extent of the current DVC data available for this project from WVDNR, WVDOH, and WV Insurance Commission? (b) Is the insurance company information from State Farm only or from other companies operating in WV? (c) Is the information available in a spreadsheet format?

Response:

(a) WVDOH data is very limited; currently there is no statewide data collection for deer-vehicle collisions (DVC's). WVDOH maintenance crews complete DOT 12 reports for each deer carcass removal; the report lists the route number and milepost information. Over 16,210 deer carcasses were collected in 2010. Hardcopies of the DOT 12 reports are filed at each district headquarters. The WVDOH Traffic Management Center (TMC) at the WVDOH Central Office in Charleston, WV receives a summary report of DVC's from each district. The TMC also receives police reports for reported DVC's that result in >\$500 property damage; police report details on animal involvement may vary.

The WVDNR has 2,100 data points deer collected along highways (both 2 lane and 4 lane roadways) for the period July 1, 2006 to present. Deer mortalities from vehicles reported to WVDNR by WVDOH have been compiled from 1978 thru 2011 by county. Both data sets are available as spreadsheets (note not all 2,100 data points have been edited and compared to written location descriptions).

The extent of DVC data from the WV Insurance Commission is unknown; it has not been explored to date.

(b) In Task 4 the WV Insurance Commission - not State Farm - was listed as a potential source for deer-vehicle collision data.

(c) The DVC data from the WVDOH is not available in spreadsheet format; WVDNR data is available in spreadsheet format.

- 2) **Question:** Is there a GIS layer of DVC/accident reports involving deer/carcass removal available from the WVDOH or other agencies?

Response: Neither the WVDOT nor the WVDNR has a GIS layer of DVC or deer/carcass removal.

- 3) **Question:** Is there a summary of current practices used in WV by the WVDOH for addressing DVC?

Response: The WVDOH does not have established practices for addressing DVC's.

- 4) **Question:** On page 3, task 1 (b) of the RFP the term "post studies" is used. Does this mean studies to evaluate proposed countermeasure efficacy?

Response: Yes

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED ON APRIL 6, 2012:

- 5) **Question:** Proposal Special Notes & Instructions, Item #2 - Do both the paper copies and electronic copies have to be received by the 4:00pm 5/11/2012 deadline? Or can the electronic copy be emailed by that deadline with hard copies to follow in the mail?

Response: Only an electronic copy (.pdf) of the proposal must be received by the RSS section at 4:00 PM on 5/11/2012 for the proposal to be eligible for consideration; the hard copy can be mailed the day of the proposal submission deadline.

- 6) **Question:** Proposal Special Notes & Instructions, Item #6 - Should the task percentage of the overall project be based on cost or time/effort? These two could be skewed if a task requires the purchase of software or equipment.

Response: The percentage of the total project time/effort is to be listed for each task.

- 7) **Question:** Proposal Special Notes & Instructions, Item #10 - If the proposed budget exceeds the estimated funds listed on the RFP, will that prevent the proposal from being considered?

Response: As described in Exhibit 1 of the *Process for Research Services Solicitation, Selection and Contract Implementation* document ([click here for document](#)), a maximum total of 10 points can be awarded if the total estimated cost for the research seems reasonable for the amount of work required. Proposed budgets exceeding the estimated funds listed on the RFP will not prevent the proposal from being considered, but may impact the proposal score.

- 8) **Question:** Is there a page limit for the proposal submission? If so, does the page limit only apply to the proposal itself and not the appendix, which may include resumes and supporting document?

Response: A maximum allowable proposal length has not been established. However, note that Item #5 of the RFP *Proposal Special Notes and Instructions* limits the description of each task to a ½ page.

- 9) **Question:** Does the proposal have to specifically address the tasks as they are currently written in the RFP? Can we propose that similar tasks be combined or complex tasks be separated as long as the project objectives are still met?

Response: The proposal must address the tasks as they are currently listed in the RFP in order to provide consistency in the evaluation of proposals. The research team Principle Investigator that is selected to proceed with the research services contract negotiations will be given the opportunity to present any recommendations for modifying the project scope of work before the contract is finalized.

- 10) **Question:** If the answer to the previous question is such that the proposal has to address the tasks as written, will the successful team have the opportunity to recommend modifications to the scope of work before a contract is finalized?

Response: Yes; see the response to Question 9 above.

- 11) **Question:** Project Objectives & Tasks, Task 2 – (a) In reference to evaluating other states’ “wildlife management policies”, is this limited to deer-vehicle collision mitigation or does it involve additional species? (b) Does it involve aspects of wildlife management beyond direct road mortality (related to DNR and not necessarily DOT)?

Response:

(a) The objective of this task is to evaluate mitigation techniques, policies, and practices that will help reduce vehicle collisions in WV with deer only. However, techniques/policies being used to mitigate vehicle collisions with other animal species that show potential for also reducing deer-vehicle collisions may also be considered in the evaluation.

(b) No; the research only considers wildlife management aspects related directly to vehicle collision mortality.

- 12) **Question:** Project Objectives & Tasks, Task 2 - Does “evaluate” really mean to document/summarize, as in a literature review?

Response: Yes; review, identify, and document other states’ transportation and wildlife management agency policies and practices that are applicable to WV for reducing deer-vehicle collisions.

- 13) **Question:** Project Objectives & Tasks, Task 4 – (a) Since the cost and ability to do Task 5 is significantly dependent on the outcome of Task 4, can the WVDOT confirm the availability and type of data they know will be available to the researchers and the coverage of the data (e.g., specific route/milepost, county, varies by jurisdiction, etc.). Knowing this information ahead of time will help the research teams develop more specific proposals, even though the quality of the data will still need to be assessed. (b) If the DOT does not know the answers to these questions, are the researchers permitted to contact the TAC member representing that agency during the proposal development process?

- a. Carcass removal data from WVDOT
- b. Carcass removal data from WVDNR
- c. Deer population data from WVDNR
- d. Vegetation data from WVDNR (or others)
- e. Chronic Wasting Disease database related to road-killed deer
- f. Other relevant data from WVDNR?
- g. WV Insurance Commission (all companies) or State Farm

Response: (a) **WVDOH maintenance crews complete a DOT 12 report for each deer carcass removal; the report lists the route number and milepost information. The WVDNR has 2,100 data points deer collected along highways (both 2 lane and 4 lane roadways) for the period July 1, 2006 to present. Deer mortalities from vehicles reported to WVDNR by WVDOT have been compiled from 1978 thru 2011 by county. Both data sets are available as spreadsheets (note not all 2,100 data points have been edited and compared to written location descriptions). Regarding other relevant WVDNR data, the WVDNR has hunter deer harvest information on at a county level. WVDNR does not develop vegetation GIS layers.**

(b) No. In order to maintain a “level playing field” with respect to proposal development by competing researchers, additional requests for information is not permitted.

- 14) **Question:** Project Objectives & Tasks, Task 5 - If additional details cannot be provided about the available data, is it sufficient for the researchers to make assumptions regarding the data that will be available in order to develop the scope for this task? For example, if sufficient deer-vehicle collision data is available across the state, then it may not be necessary to perform Task 5b which would attempt to predict the crashes that we already know occurred.

Response: **Researchers should develop their proposed budgets based on the assumption that sufficient information is available to complete Tasks 5(a) and 5(b).**